

11 of the lead becomes shorter than a distance between the lead feeding mechanism and the tip
12 end of said barrel, said first holding portion holds the short lead and said second holding
13 portion holds a next lead tightened by the lead feeding mechanism.

4. (Amended) The mechanical pencil according to claim 1, wherein the lead holder includes
a body, and an outside cylinder provided concentrically on an outside of the body,
said outside cylinder being formed with a rib projecting in an outside diameter
direction to come into contact with an inner peripheral face of the barrel.

6. (Amended) The mechanical pencil according to claim 1, wherein said lead holder includes
a body, said body being formed with at least one blade comprising at least one of said holding
portions, the at least one blade projecting in an inside diameter direction in a front end part of
said body to come into contact with the lead.

7. (Amended) The mechanical pencil according to claim 1, wherein the lead holder includes
a body, said body being formed with a rib comprising at least one of said holding portions,
the rib projecting in an inside diameter direction in a rear end part of said body to come into
contact with the lead.

10. (Amended) A writing instrument, comprising:

a barrel;

a writing medium feeding mechanism disposed in said barrel to be adapted to tighten
and feed a writing medium; and

a writing medium holder disposed between the writing medium feeding mechanism
and a tip end of said barrel, said writing medium holder having a through hole through which
the writing medium penetrates and having holding portions for holding the writing medium
and a contact portion for contacting an inner peripheral face of the barrel,

said holding portions including a first holding portion at a front portion of the writing
medium holder and a second holding portion at a rear portion of the writing medium holder
so that when a length of the writing medium becomes shorter than a distance between the
writing medium and the tip end of said barrel, said first holding portion holds the short

A4 13. writing medium and said second holding portion holds a next writing medium tightened by
14 the writing medium feeding mechanism.

A5 13. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein the writing medium
holder includes a body, and an outside cylinder provided concentrically on an outside of the
body,

said outside cylinder being formed with a rib projecting in an outside diameter
direction to come into contact with an inner peripheral face of the barrel.

A6 15. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein said writing medium
holder includes a body, said body being formed with at least one blade comprising at least
one of said holding portions, the at least one blade projecting in an inside diameter direction
in a front end part of said body to come into contact with the writing medium.

16. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein the writing medium
holder includes a body, said body being formed with a rib comprising at least one of said
holding portions, the rib projecting in an inside diameter direction in a rear end part of said
body to come into contact with the writing medium.

A7 19. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein said holding portions
comprise a blade and a rib which come into contact with the lead passing through the through
hole.

Please add the following new claims:

1 - 21. A writing instrument, comprising:
2 a tip end of a barrel;
3 a writing medium holder held by said tip end of said barrel having a through hole
4 through which a writing medium penetrates; and
5 holding portions formed on said writing medium holder for holding the writing
6 medium, said holding portions being formed at two or more positions along an axial length of

7 said writing medium holder, said holding portions including a first holding portion at a front
8 portion of the writing medium holder and a second holding portion at a rear portion of the
9 writing medium holder,
10 wherein when a length of the writing medium becomes short, said first holding
11 portion holds the writing medium and said second holding portion holds an unused writing
12 medium. --

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the Abstract of Disclosure on file and replace with the attached
Replacement Abstract of Disclosure.